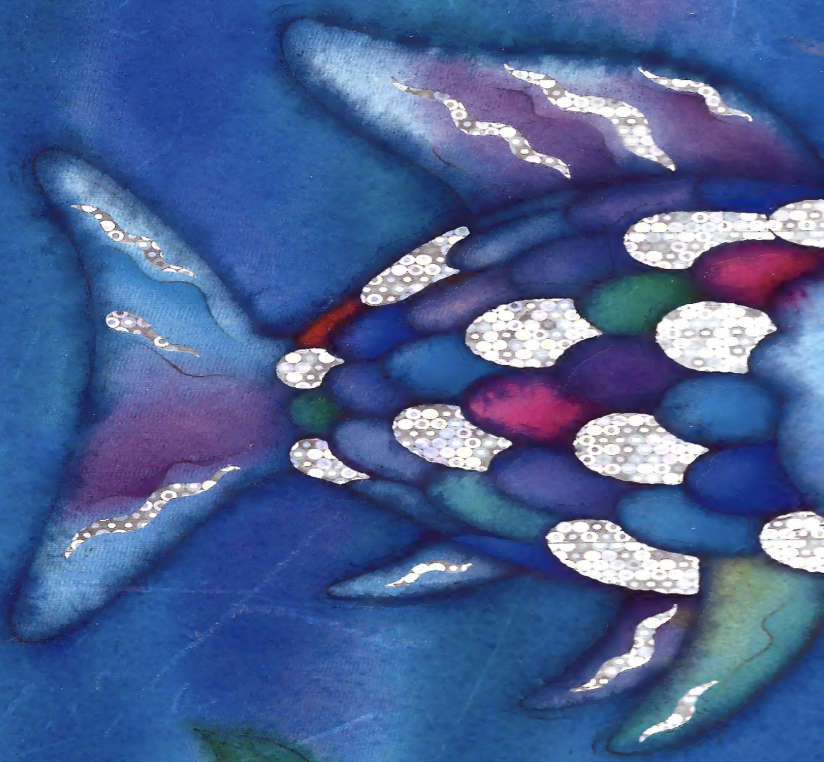


MARCUS PFISTER



ARC-EN-C

LE PLUS BEAU POISSON DE

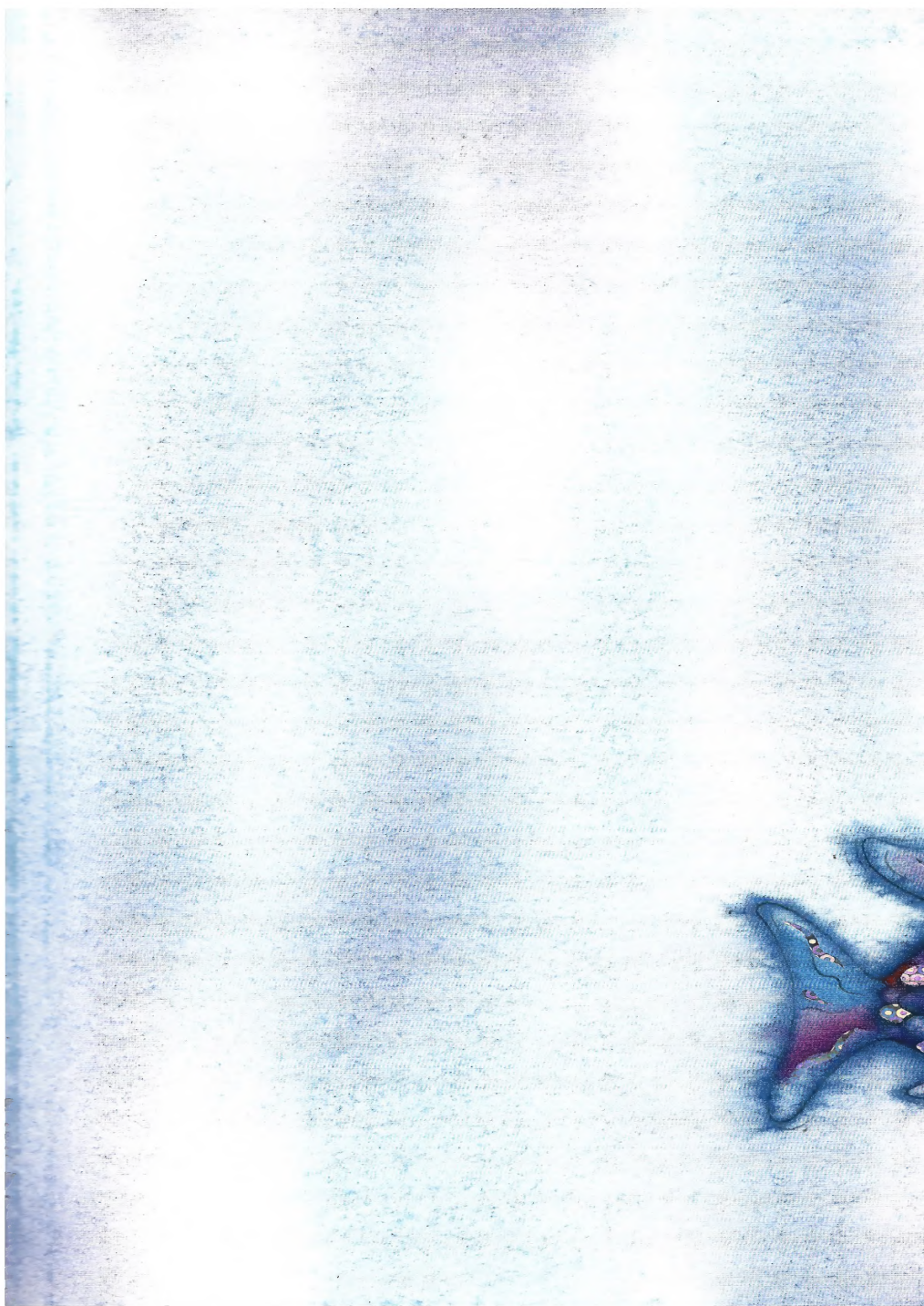
THE RAINBO

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FISH I









for Brigitte  
à Brigitte

The text in this book is taken from the French edition of the  
It is not the same as the text in the original 1992 American

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Marcus Pfister

# ARC-EN-C

LE PLUS BEAU POISSON DE



# THE RAINBO

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FISH IN

NorthSouth  
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Somewhere in the deepest sea there lived a fish. But this was no ordinary fish; he was the most beautiful fish in the entire ocean. He was rainbow colored, and his scales shone and reflected light like iridescent droplets.

Quelque  
un pois  
ordinair  
les océ  
et ses é  
dans la  
gouttes







The other fish admired his glittering scales.  
And because of his beautiful colors they had  
named him Rainbow Fish.

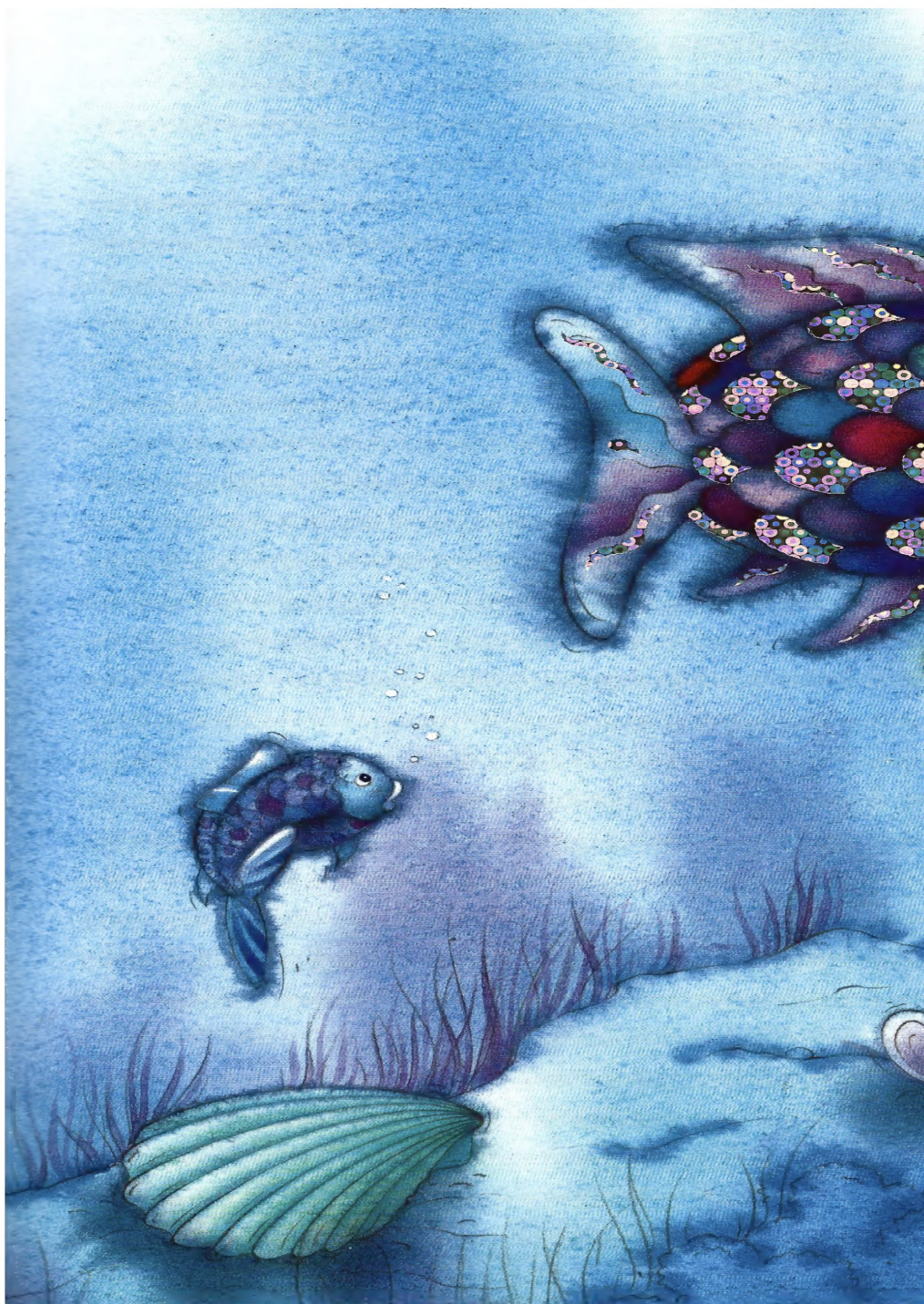
Les autres  
scintillaient  
ils l'avaient

"Rainbow Fish, come and play with us!"  
they said. But the beautiful Rainbow Fish glided  
past them without a word, but with a haughty  
look, taking care to make his scales gleam.

«Arc-en-  
Mais les  
sans di-  
bien so-



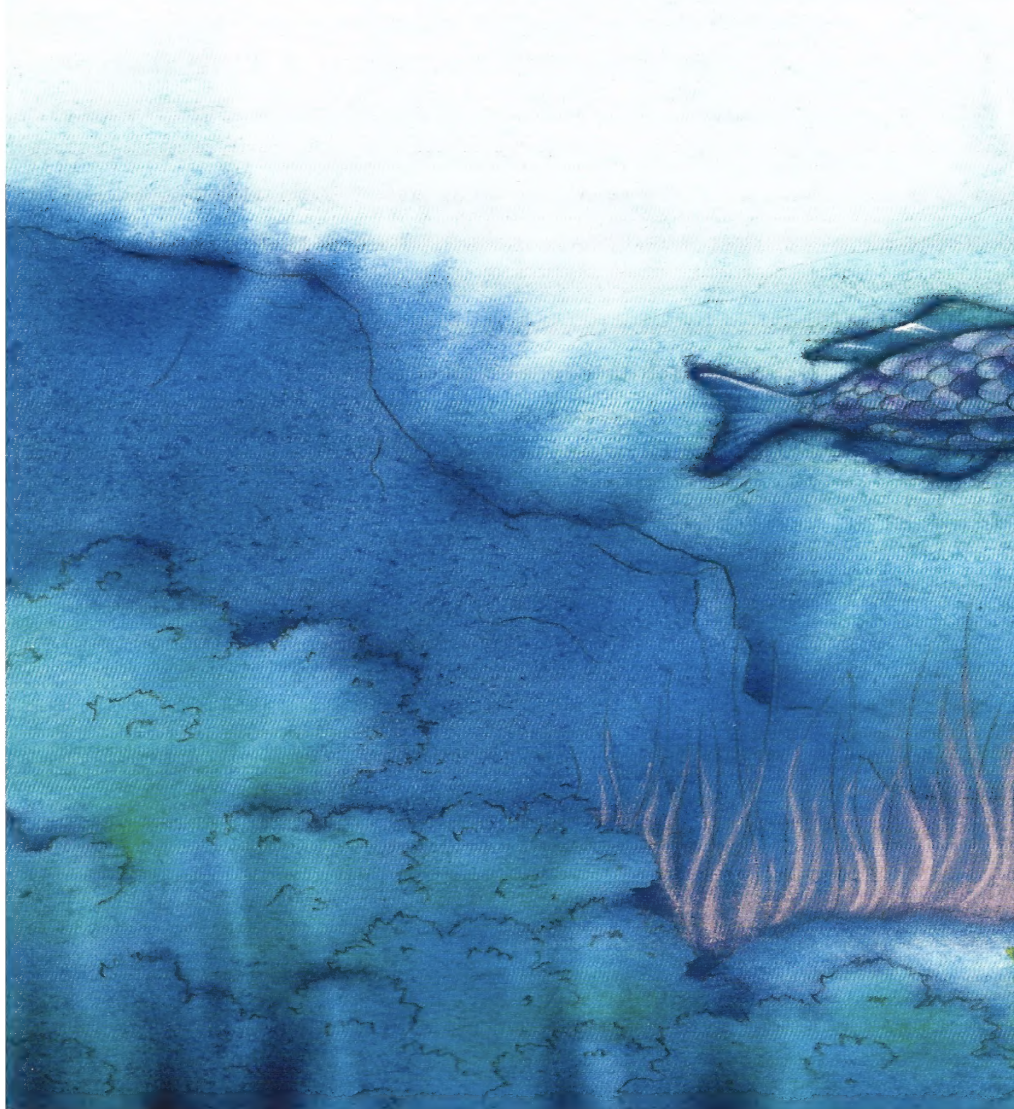






A little blue fish followed him.  
"Hey! Rainbow Fish, wait for me!  
Give me one of your scales. They are  
so beautiful, and you have so many of them!"

Un petit  
«Hé! A  
Donne-  
elles so

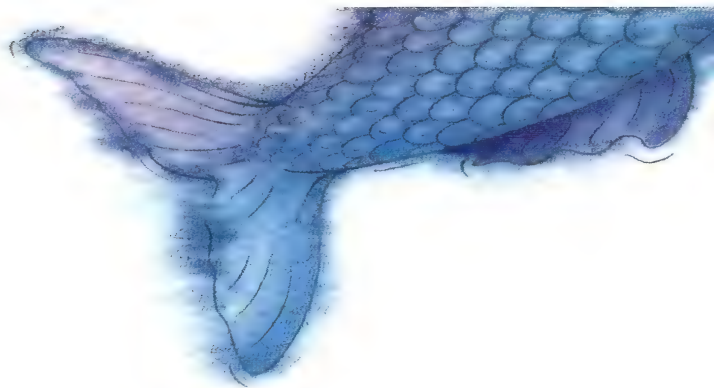






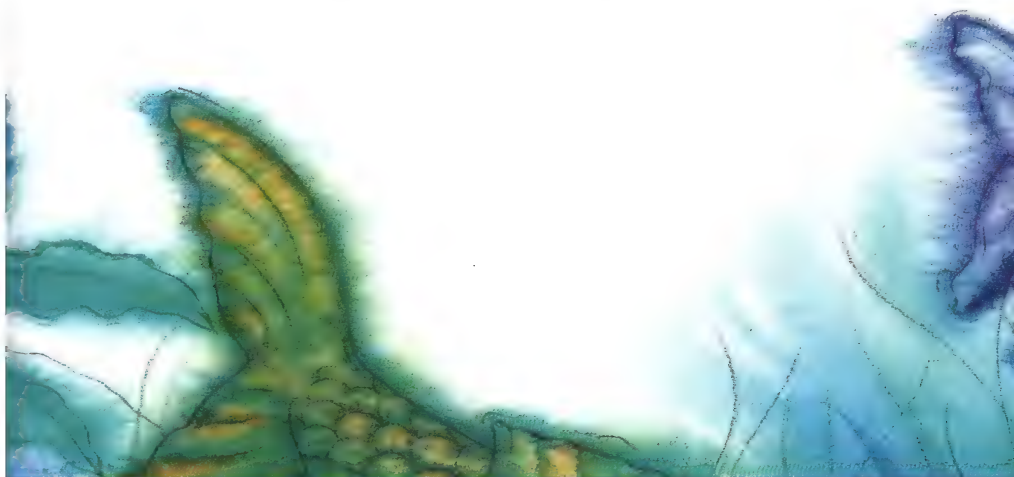






"Give you one of my scales? What are you thinking of? Buzz off! Scram!" exclaimed Rainbow Fish disdainfully. Shocked, the little blue fish fled with a swift stroke of his fin. He immediately told the other fish of his bad experience. From that day on, no one ever wanted to speak another word to Rainbow Fish. And when he passed close to them the other fish turned their backs.

«Te donner une de mes écailles? Mais qu'est-ce que tu imagines! Allons, ouste! Déguerpis!» s'exclama Arc-en-ciel avec dédain. Il s'enfuit d'un vif coup de nageoire. Il raconta aussitôt aux autres poissons sa mauvaise expérience. À partir de ce jour-là, plus personne ne voulut adresser la parole à Rainbow Fish. Et quand il passait près d'eux les autres poissons se détournaient le dos.







But what use are the most beautiful scales in the world if th  
to admire them?

Now Rainbow Fish was not only the most beautiful fish in th  
but also the loneliest!

One day he told his troubles to the starfish.

"I am so beautiful," he said to her. "Why doesn't anyone li  
The starfish was silent for a moment. Then she said, "Behin  
there is a cave. That's where Octopus lives. She knows man  
Perhaps she will be able to give you some advice."

Mais à quoi servent les plus belles écailles du monde s'il n'y  
pour les admirer?

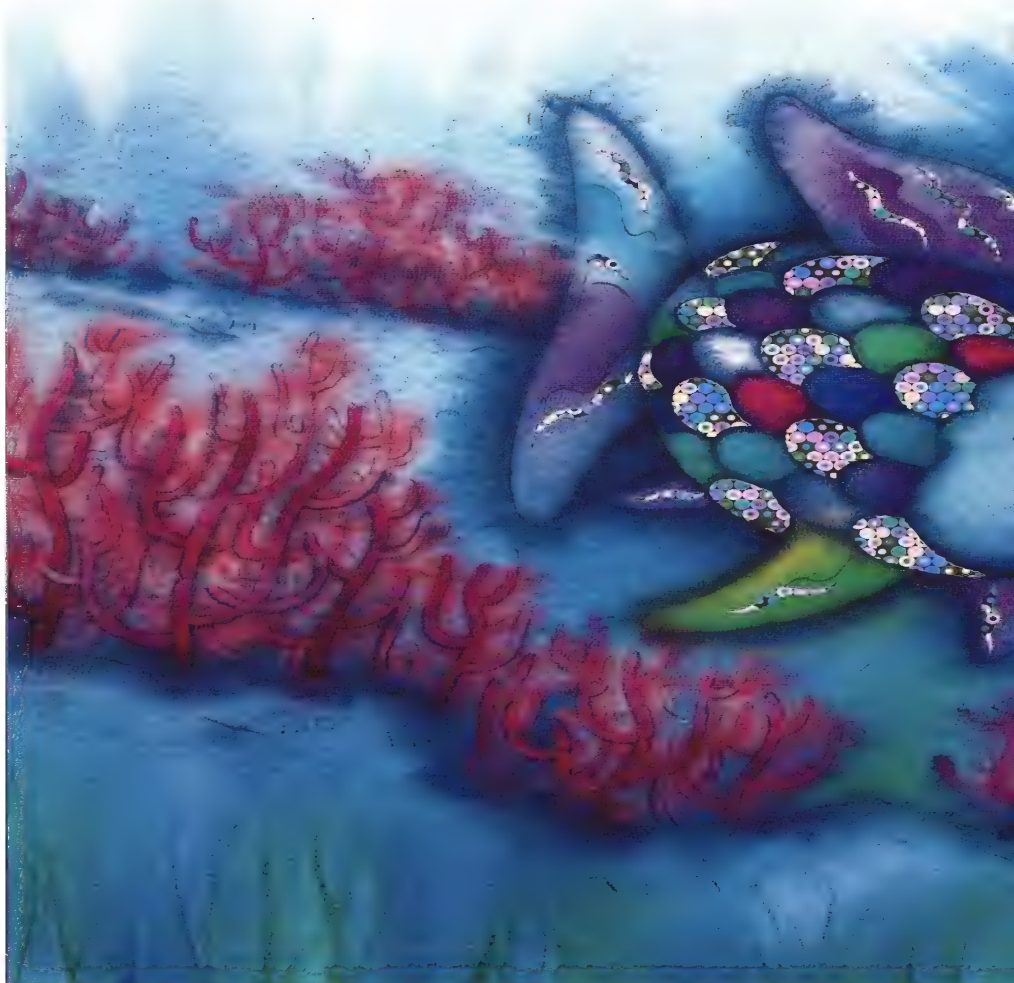
À présent Arc-en-ciel n'était plus seulement le plus beau poi  
c'était aussi le plus seul!

Un jour il fit part de ses soucis à l'étoile de mer.

«Je suis si beau, lui dit-il, pourquoi est-ce qu'on ne m'aime  
L'étoile de mer se tut un instant, puis elle dit: «Derrière le r  
il y a une grotte, c'est là qu'habite Octopus, la pieuvre. Elle  
de choses, peut-être pourra-t-elle te donner un conseil.»

Rainbow Fish soon found the cave. How dark  
it was there! You could hardly see a thing.  
Suddenly he saw two eyes shining in the  
darkness. Three arms reached out toward him.

Arc-en-  
Comm  
presqu  
dans l







"I was expecting you,"  
said Octopus in a solemn voice.  
"The waves brought your story to me.  
Listen carefully to my advice. Offer up  
one of your beautiful scales to every fish  
who asks you for one. Perhaps you will  
no longer be the most beautiful fish,  
but you will be a happy fish."


«Je t'attendais, dit Octopus d'une voix solennelle.  
Les vagues m'ont rapporté ton histoire.  
Écoute bien mon conseil: offre à chaque poisson  
qui te le demandera l'une de tes écailles.  
Tu ne seras peut-être plus le plus beau poisson,  
mais tu seras un poisson heureux»











"But..." said Rainbow.  
He couldn't go on, for Octopus  
had already disappeared  
behind a cloud of ink.  
Give away my scales?  
My magnificent scales?  
he thought indignantly.  
Oh, no! I could never be

«Mais...» dit Arc-en-ciel.  
Il ne put rien ajouter de plus,  
car Octopus avait déjà disparu  
derrière un nuage d'encre.  
Offrir mes écailles?  
Mes magnifiques écailles?  
pensa-t-il indigné.  
Jamais! Ah non! Je ne pourrais  
être heureux sans elles.





Suddenly he felt the water vibrate.  
The little blue fish was close beside him.  
"Rainbow Fish, please, be kind, give me some of your magnificent scales!"  
Rainbow Fish hesitated. One tiny little scale, he thought. All right. I will. It won't hurt.

Tout à coup il sentit l'eau vibrer.  
Le petit poisson bleu était à nouveau tout près.  
«Arc-en-ciel, s'il te plaît, sois gentil, donne-moi une de tes magnifiques écailles.»  
Arc-en-ciel hésita. Une toute petite écaille, pensa-t-il, bon, d'accord, ça ne se verra pas.





Rainbow Fish carefully detached the smallest scale from his back and gave it to the blue fish.

"Here, take this. And now go away!"

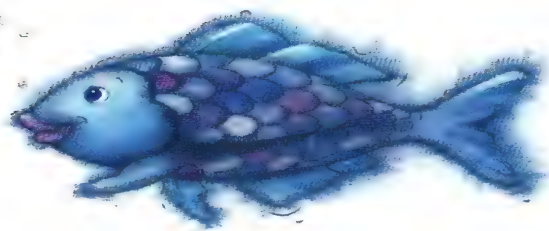
"Oh! Thank you, thank you very much!" said the little fish happily. "That is really very kind of you, Rainbow Fish!"

Rainbow Fish felt very strange. He watched the little blue fish for a long time as he went off with his little glittering scale.

Arc-en-ciel  
écaille de

«Tiens, la  
«Oh! Mer  
tout joyeu  
de ta part

Arc-en-ciel  
longueme  
avec sa p







The little blue fish went everywhere  
with his beautiful scale, and everyone  
admired him.

Soon Rainbow Fish was surrounded by a swarm  
of little fish; they all wanted a scale!

And who would have believed it?

Rainbow Fish started to give

his beautiful scales away.

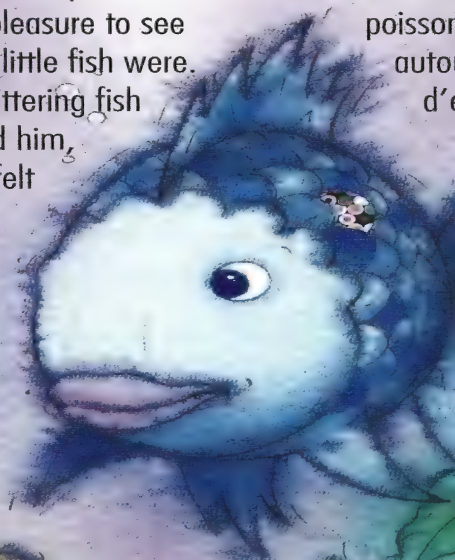
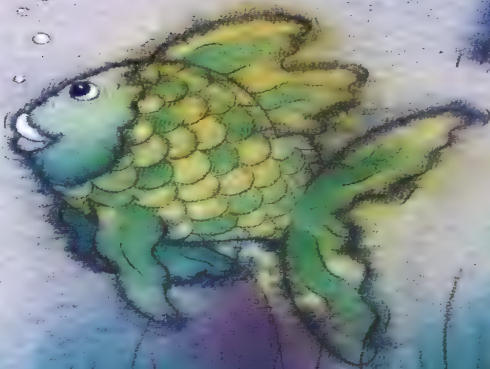
It even gave him pleasure to see  
how delighted the little fish were.

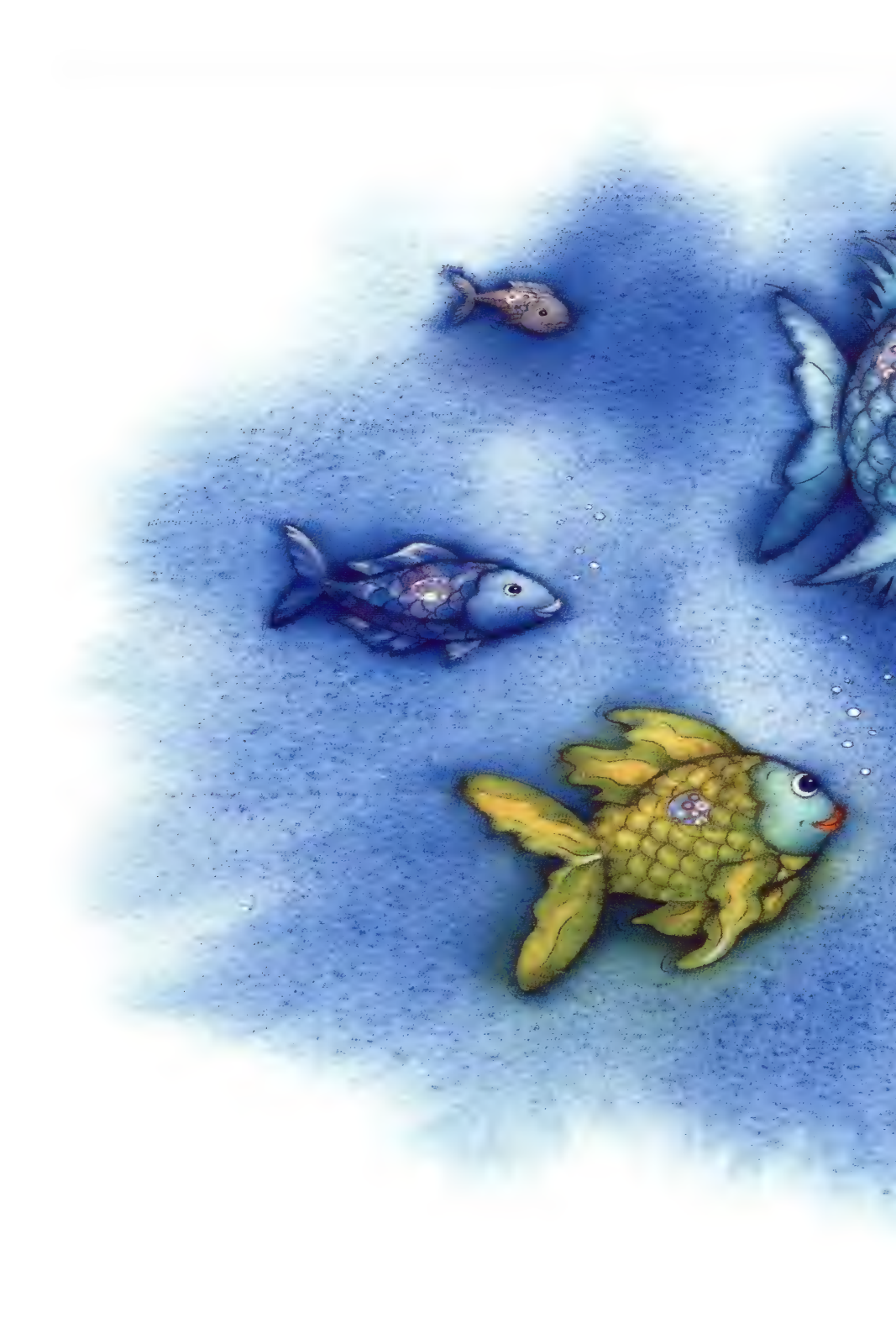
And the more glittering fish

he saw around him,  
the better he felt  
amongst them.

Le petit p  
avec sa b  
Bientôt A  
de petits  
Et, qui l'e  
ses belles

Cela l'am  
poisson  
autor  
d'e









Soon Rainbow Fish had only one single glistening scale left. He had given away all the rest! And he was happy, really happy. "Come and play with us, Rainbow Fish!" called the other fish. "Here I come!" said Rainbow Fish, and he darted happily into the middle of his group of new friends.

Bientôt il n'avait plus qu'une seule écaille brillante. Il était heureux, vraiment heureux. «Viens jouer avec nous, Rainbow Fish!» criaient les autres poissons. «J'arrive!» dit Rainbow Fish, et il se précipita joyeusement au milieu de son groupe de nouveaux amis.









US \$18.95  
CAN \$23.95



Arc-en-ciel est le plus beau poisson de tous. Il brille et scintille de toutes les couleurs de l'arc-en-ciel et si vaniteux qu'il en est aussi très seul. Un jour, il perd l'une de ses belles écailles. Puis une autre, puis une autre encore. Il découvre enfin qu'il n'y a de vrai bonheur qu'en partageant.

Rainbow Fish is the most beautiful fish in the sea. His scales shine and shimmer with all the colors of the rainbow. But he is so proud and so vain, he is also very lonely. One day he gives one of his beautiful scales to a little fish, then another, and another. Finally he finds out that true happiness comes from sharing.

